

REMARKS

The Official Action dated March 10, 1997 has been received and its contents carefully noted. Filed herewith is a *Request for One Month Extension of Time*, which extends the statutory period for response to July 10, 1997. Thus, it is respectfully submitted that this response is timely filed.

Claims 1-24 were pending in the present application prior to the above amendment. Applicant notes with appreciation the allowance of claims 11-24 and the indication that claims 2 and 7 are directed to allowable subject matter. Rejected claims 1-10 have been canceled herewith in favor of new claims 25-39, which are believed to be distinguished over the prior art of record for the reasons discussed in detail below. With respect to allowed independent claims 11, 16 and 23, these claims have been canceled in favor of new claims 40-42, which recite the same claim limitations as new independent claims 25, 30 and 35. The dependencies of claims 12-15, 17-22 and 24 have been changed accordingly. The allowability of these claims is not believed to be impacted by these amendments. Therefore, claims 12-15, 17-22 and 24-42 are now pending in the present application and favorable consideration is requested in view of the amendments and remarks herein.

The Official Action rejects claims 1-5 as anticipated by U.S. Patent 4,688,074 to Iinuma and rejects claims 3 and 4 as obvious based on the combination of Iinuma and applicant's admission of prior art. As noted above, these claims have been canceled in favor of new claims 25-39, which are believed to be patentably distinguished from Iinuma for the following reasons. Specifically, new independent claims 25, 30 and 35 recite the limitation of "said sealing member enclosing said active matrix circuit and said driver circuit" and the limitation of "said second substrate has at least one side edge which is substantially aligned with a side edge of said first substrate."

In view of these two limitations, the present invention as recited in independent claims 25, 30 and 35 is distinguished over the cited reference to Iinuma and reconsideration of the outstanding rejection in view thereof is requested.

The Official Action further rejects claims 1, 5, 6 and 10 as anticipated by U.S patent 5,517,344 to Hu et al. and rejects claims 3, 4, 8 and 9 as obvious based on the combination of Hu and applicant's admission of prior art. As the Official Action notes, applicant's priority date of September 20, 1993 antedates the May 20, 1994 filing date of Hu. In view thereof, applicant is preparing a verified translation of the priority document, which will be submitted to perfect applicant's claim to priority as soon as it is received from Japan. With the filing of this translation, the rejections based on Hu will be moot.

Finally an Information Disclosure Statement is filed herewith and consideration of the references noted therein is requested. If the Examiner has any questions concerning this application, he is invited to contact the undersigned.

Respectfully submitted,



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